175.

MR. JONES, of Balt., Chairman.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE

ON THE

COLORED POPULATION.

By the House of Delegates, March 21st 1835.

Read the first and second time by special order, and assented to.

By order, G. G. BREWER, Clerk.

The Committee on the Colored Population have had under consideration the several matters hereinafter referred to, and respectfully submit the following

REPORT:

The order instructing them to "enquire into the expediency of so modifying the law regulating the appropriation to the Colonization Society, as to make it obligatory upon the managers to expend the annual appropriation of $20,000 on the part of this State, exclusively towards the removal of that part of the colored population of this State, who were free antecedent to the passage of the law granting said appropriation," has claimed and received their most serious deliberation, and they are of opinion, that the adop-

tion of such a measure would be unwise and impolitic, and more likely to perpetuate and increase the evils of slavery, than if the Colonization Society were left, as they are by the law of 1831, to the selection of colored persons to be colonized, indifferently from those who were free at the time of the passage of that law, or those who may have become so, since that law was enacted.

They have also maturely considered the order instructing them to "inquire into the expediency of repealing an act passed at December session, 1831, chapter 281." The state system of Colonization adopted by that act, has, so far, in the opinion of the committee, been entirely successful, and by its beneficial operation made manifest the wisdom of those who conceived it. The operations of the Colonization Society, as detailed in the report of the board of managers, hereto annexed, fully sustain this opinion; and the present situation and plans of that society, viewed in connection with the condition of our free colored population, undoubtedly warrant them in saying, that the repeal of the act of 1831, chapter 281, would be productive of much evil, even though we should not consider the great advantages to the State that must result from the removal of any large number of that portion of our population to Africa, which can only take place by carrying out fully the plans of the society, and as necessary thereto, continuing in force the act referred to.

Their views are more fully and forcibly set forth in the accompanying documents, and to which the committee ask the attention of the House, and hope they will receive that deliberate consideration the importance of the subject to which they refer, demands.

The leave that was referred to them, for reporting a bill, repealing the above referred to act, so far as it relates to St. Mary's county, they are of opinion should not be granted.

The committee therefore report unfavorably on these several propositions, and ask to be discharged from their further consideration.

It is not deemed necessary by the committee to enter into any further explanation of the system of Colonization that has been adopted, and is now being successfully prosecuted by the Maryland State Colonization Society, than is contained in the report of the Managers. The perusal of tha report will evince all of the advantages of that system, over all others now in operation, and must confirm them in the

opinion of the practicability of colonizing the colored population of this country, in Africa.

The committee feel that they cannot bestow too much praise on that Society, for the great ability with which it has conducted its affairs; nor can they permit the opportunity to pass without bearing witness to the pure and philanthropic spirit which has actuated and governed its members. They have voluntarily assumed a duty involving high moral responsibilities, the discharge of which often exposes them to unjust and unmerited censure, without bringing them any pecuniary reward, and the end and design of whose efforts are to benefit "the people of the State, and through their example, our whole country." They look for their only reward in the good they do, and the generation that shall succeed those who are now passing away, will have abundant cause to rejoice in the success of their philanthropic efforts.

All which is respectfully submitted,

JOSHUA JONES, Chairman.

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